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DRILL
FOR
FOOT GUARDS AND INFANTRY
OF THE LINE

MILITARY TRAINING PAMPHLET No. 18

1939

Amendment No. 1 (Aust.) 1940.

By Command of the Military Board.

C. B. LAFFAN,
Secretary to the Board.

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S. J. G. GDT. D5T.

ELEMENTARY DRILL—INSTRUCTIONS.

In order to prevent the adoption of undesirable variations on certain points of elementary drill the following rulings are to be applied throughout the A.M.F. These rulings are the best of many put forward and apply primarily to M.T. Pamphlet No. 18 (Drill in threes for infantry) but are to be adapted to the other arms in the spirit of the decisions for infantry. Simplicity consistent with efficiency is the principle underlying the decisions. Useless movements, misleading cautionary commands, and the unnecessary retention of men at other than positions of rest must be prohibited.

Position of Temporary Commanders

Those in command temporarily, including N.C.O's. will take up the position of the normal Commander whom they represent. When the platoon commander is a non-commissioned officer he will carry out the functions of the platoon sergeant until such times as platoon commanders have taken over their platoons when he will open his platoon and then assume the functions of the platoon commander.

In such cases the senior section commander will act as platoon sergeant. He will fall in in the normal position for that appointment and will carry out that portion of the platoon sergeant's role which is not performed by the N.C.O. acting as Platoon Commander.

Distance in Column and Close Column

In every case the distance taught will be from front rank to front rank, even though a diagram may show a distance between rear rank and front rank. (c.f. M.T. Pamphlet 18, Plate 6: Company in close column; the distance is to be taught as 14 paces.)

Moving to a Flank

The direction given in the cautionary will conform to the direction given in the executive part of the command. (e.g., Even though facing the rear the command "Move to the RIGHT—LEFT turn" will NOT be used.)

Dressing—Position of Arm. Sec. 2, 3

The raised arm will be kept horizontal and, where heights differ greatly, may not touch the shoulder of the next man.

Fixing Bayonets—Position of Fingers. Sec. 3, 1

The fingers and thumb will not be straightened after pressing home the bayonet onto the standard. Both fixing and unfixing bayonets will be done in open order to avoid any possibility of injury to man in front.

To Move Out of the Ranks

In whatever position in the ranks the man is he will come to attention, slope arms, take a pace to his left front, and move off direct to his front.

To Move Into the Ranks

The man will move into his position by the shortest route direct from the rear, and come to the same position as the rest of the men.

Note.—Moving out of the ranks will be done to the front, moving into the ranks will be done from the rear.

To Adjust Equipment, etc.

The man will come to attention (if necessary), take a pace to his left front, carry out required adjustment, step back into his position and come to same position as rest of men.

Ground Arms

Before grounding arms, the ranks will be opened by the command "Open Order March."

Pile Arms. Sec. 3, 2

- i. Front rank men turn about and place their rifles so that odd numbers have the magazine to the original right flank with the toe of the butt in line with, and touching the right of their right foot, even numbers have the magazine to the original left flank with the toe of the butt touching the left of their left foot. At the same time as the front rank turns about the centre and rear ranks turn their magazines to the rear.
- ii. Odd numbers of the front rank cross the muzzles of their rifles with those of their even number, holding the piling swivels.
- iii. Even numbers of the centre rank link their rifles with those held by the odd numbers of the front rank and lower their butts to the ground 12 inches from, and in line with, the toe of their right foot. Odd numbers of the centre rank place their rifles against the pile.
- iv. As soon as the pile is ready the third rank place their rifles against the nearest piles, odd numbers stepping to the left front, even numbers to the right front. Each man resumes his normal position at once.

Stand clear, Stand to; and Unpile arms will be as laid down in M.E.D.

Right (or Left) Turn on the March

This turn will be made as laid down in M.E.D. Sec. 16 (1). (It is agreed that to make the turn the left (or right) foot must be partially turned in the new direction but this should not cause men to turn their bodies prematurely.) It is to be noted that the method approved does **NOT** contain any semblance of a balance step whether called by that name or not. The turn is the natural one made by a man pivoting on the left (or right) fore part of his foot and allows of no stamping. During the actual pivot the heel of the foot being used as a pivot is clear of the ground.

A Close Column When Halted Moving to a Flank in Threes. Sec. 8, 2

In detail of movement the directing platoon should read "left (or right)" in lieu of present wording.

A Platoon in Line Forming Column of Route.

When moving to the left, section commanders will move to the head of their sections as soon as they have turned to the left; outer section commanders moving by the outer flanks, the middle section commander moving by the same flank as the higher numbered section commander.

Platoon Guide. Sec. 6, last sentence but one.

The platoon guide will normally be the lowest numbered section commander. The Platoon Guide will be covered off when Platoon is in line (Pamphlet 18, Plate 1).

Company Falling In

Immediately prior to the time ordered for the parade, members of the company will assemble in the near vicinity of but clear of the company parade ground. They may stand easy, facing the parade ground, but they are NOT yet on parade.

C.S.M. "Markers."—On this order, the lowest numbered section commanders of platoons move to the C.S.M. and place themselves at column distances facing him, and covering off. Markers will then stand at ease and then "easy." Only if necessary, will the C.S.M. call the markers to attention, check their covering and stand them easy. In cases where parades are held regularly at any parade ground, drill hall, etc., markers may not be needed, their place being taken by permanent marks on the ground or floor. In such cases, the order "Markers" will not be necessary.

C.S.M. "Company—Fall In."—The markers and the members of the company will come to attention and members of the company move smartly to their positions. Those carrying arms will move on at the slope and will order arms before dressing. On reaching their positions men will take up their dressing and then stand at ease in succession. The platoon sergeant will move direct to his position but, if necessary, may move from this position to correct dressing, etc. (See Note "A.")

C.S.M. "Call the Roll."—Each platoon sergeant comes to attention, turns about, and checks the men on parade. After the check has been made, either by calling the names from a roll book or by a shorter and less formal check, each platoon sergeant stands his platoon "Easy", turns about and stands easy himself. (See Note "B.")

C.S.M.—Collecting Reports of Roll Call.

When all platoons have completed their roll call, the C.S.M. will bring the company to attention and collect reports from platoon sergeants in succession by calling out "Reports—No. 1 Platoon; No. 2 Platoon; etc." Each platoon sergeant, from his normal position, will give his own report as it is called for. The C.S.M. will then stand the company at ease and make his report to the Company Commander, giving a verbal account of all absentees, men late on parade, etc.

Company Commander—Officers Taking Post

The Company Commander then orders "Officers—Take Post." The officers, who have been in line behind the company commander, come to attention, salute, move to their platoons and carry out such inspections as the O.C. may have directed. On the command "Take Post," Platoon Sergeants come to attention, slope arms, if carrying rifles, and move to the right flank of their platoons, three paces in front of the right guide or marker, where they await the arrival of their platoon commanders. The platoon sergeants then make their reports to their commanders. If the platoon commander orders any inspection the Platoon Sergeant turns about, brings the platoon to attention and makes any other preparations that may be necessary. If no inspection is to be carried out, both the Platoon Commanders and the Platoon Sergeant take up their positions with the platoon. N.C.Os. acting as platoon commander will carry out the detail laid down for platoon sergeants and will then conform to the action of the other platoon commanders. The Second-in-command, if on parade, takes up his position on the order "Take Post."

If the O.C. desires reports by platoon commanders on their inspections he will inform them accordingly before giving the order "Take Post." When each Platoon Commander has completed his inspection he will move out independently and fall in in front of the O.C. Platoon Commanders will fall in with the highest numbered on the right and, when the last to arrive steps into his place all will salute together and give their reports as asked.

Note "A."—This suggestion is intended to remove from Platoon Sergeants the temptation to waste time and make an unnecessary fuss in dressing their platoons and from instructors the temptation to make a ritual of this dressing. It is contended that all men, when past the recruit stage, can make a reasonable attempt at picking up their own dressing, particularly in a small unit like a platoon. Again, as the platoon has such a small frontage, the Platoon Sergeant should be able to make all necessary corrections from his position in front of the platoon.

Note "B."—The calling of rolls is frequently unnecessary. If the platoon sergeant does not know all the men certainly he should know the strength of the platoon and the section commanders should know the men of their own sections. The sergeant can check the number of men missing with the men reported absent by section commanders.



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